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Viewing cable 09BUENOSAIRE67, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ON ARGENTINE SUMMITRY, NUCLEAR

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

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Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09BUENOSAIRE67**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09BUENOSAIRE67	2009-01-21 20:21	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Buenos Aires

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/21/2019
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EMIN](#) [KSUM](#) [PREL](#) [CA](#) [AR](#)
SUBJECT: CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ON ARGENTINE SUMMITRY, NUCLEAR
ENERGY AND MINING POLICIES

Classified By: Ambassador E. Anthony Wayne for reasons (B) and (D).

[¶1](#). (SBU) A January 14 discussion between Ambassador Wayne and

Canadian Ambassador Tim Martin covered Argentina's poor preparation for regional summits and the G-20, as well as Canada's nuclear energy and mining agenda with Argentina.

12. (SBU) Brazil's regional agenda and the Summit of the Americas: Martin said that he had gone to the Argentine MFA's assistant secretary for Latin America, Agustin Colombo, to express concern that Canada was not included in the summit Brazil was hosting for all countries in the hemisphere except the U.S. and Canada. Colombo told him that Argentina did not really have an idea of what the summit was intended to do except highlight Brazil's leadership ambitions. After the summit, Colombo told Martin that during the summit in Brazil, the GoA had sent him to a last-minute meeting where Lula and Calderon basically told those assembled what they planned to announce a follow-on summit in Mexico. Martin said that he had tried to engage the Argentines on the April Summit of the Americas but found them not very interested. Ambassador Wayne said that he had found the same thing when we had tried to engage them. Both ambassadors agreed to work together to try to move the Argentines in a positive direction as the summit approaches and as they both receive guidance from capitols.

13. (C) G-20: Martin said that his deputy minister who had been at the Washington G-20 meeting characterized Argentina's participation as a blown opportunity. Ambassador Wayne said that U.S. officials had told him that President Fernandez de Kirchner had spoken twice as long as other leaders and that her message had been very distinct from the other leaders, with a rhetorical and Argentine-centric bent. Martin said that unfortunately Fernandez de Kirchner has a tendency to give speeches that sound off on her views about the inequity of the world. In the case of the G-20, this did not reflect the practical, serious work of Central Bank Governor Redrado or her Finance Secretary. Her "sherpa", Ambassador Timerman, had also not been up to the substantive task. Ambassador agreed that Redrado especially had tried to take the opportunity for Argentina to contribute to this important process. Both ambassadors agreed to work together, perhaps along with other BA-based G-20 ambassadors, to encourage Argentina to play a more constructive role in the April G-20 meeting and in the working groups.

14. (SBU) Nuclear Cooperation: Canada is working hard to increase peaceful nuclear cooperation with Argentina. The Canadians are going to carry out a major rehab of the Embalse nuclear energy plant in Cordoba which should total about US\$800 million. They are helping Argentina finish its Atucha II nuclear energy plant which has been under construction for years. And, they are competing to build a new nuclear plant about which they hope the Argentines will reach a decision in the next year.

15. (SBU) Mining Going OK: Martinsaid major Canadian mining companies are standing with their commitments to invest in Argentina despite the flare-up a year ago when the GoA surprised them with new export taxes. Since the tax announcement, the GoA, led by the Secretary of Mining, has worked quietly with Canadian companies to find ways to work around the new federal regulations. One of Canada's largest investments, Barick Gold's Pascua-Lama project in San Juan province, is still on hold however, because it straddles the Chile-Argentine border: the Canadian company does not want to proceed unless the two governments have agreed in writing on taxes.

16. (SBU) The Canadian embassy and mining companies also continue to work with provincial governments on environmental issues. In a number of cases, provincial legislatures have banned the use of chemicals in mining (e.g. the use of arsenic in leaching gold from lower grade ore), which Martin said are widely and safely used elsewhere. Finally, a number of smaller Canadian firms are packing up, basically because they can't get financing in these difficult times to continue their exploratory work.

WAYNE